

## **BLACK ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Michael S. Styles, Director**

**Tuesday, April 11, 2006**

Prepared by Carol Shifflett

### **Minutes**

**Time:** 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Department of Community and Culture (324 South State Street, Suite 500 SLC, UT)

**PRESENT:** Ron Stallworth, Osman M. Ahmed, Koffi Djagba, Abdul Malik Muhammad, William Price, Michael Styles

**EXCUSED/ABSENT:** Safiyyah Usman, Bobby Porter, Verdo Thomas, Theresa Walker

**GUEST:** Luz Robles

**I. Welcome:** Ron Stallworth opened the meeting at 4:20 p.m. and welcomed the 5 new council members. New Council Members introduce themselves. Osman moved that we accept the minutes from previous meeting. William seconded. Minutes approved at 4:22 P.M.

**OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS:** Ron Stallworth updated the council on the status of the Office of Ethnic Affairs since Yvette Diaz resigned her position as Executive Director. As a result of numerous calls to Representative Bourdeaux concerning the status of the Ethnic Councils, community representatives met and agreed on two things; one, that there is a definite need for the continuation for the Office of Ethnic Affairs, and secondly that the Office of Ethnic Affairs needs to be strengthened in terms of the Directors, their positions, and their authority. The Directors, Chairs of Councils met with Interim Director, Dick Bradford regarding their concerns. Discussions are still taking place. A follow-up meeting was held approximately 10 days ago with Pamela Atkinson, Special Advisor to Governor Huntsman, who is putting together a report for the governor. The community has asked that they be represented in whatever body is put together in the decision making process when hiring a new Executive Director, and reaffirmed their belief that these offices need to be maintained, and that the Directors need to have their positions and authority strengthened. Ms. Atkinson is expected to respond to the concerns in approximately 45 days.

### **NEW BUSINESS: Director's Report:**

- Ron discussed the importance of referring all media inquiries to Michael, Osman, or himself, and the significance of attendance.
- Ron informed members that they are allowed no more than 3 absences, unless there is a family emergency. Any more than 3 members are subject to be removed from the council.
- Michael welcomed new council members and welcomed new idea for the embitterment of the Black Community in Utah.
- Carol updated the council on the upcoming *Leading to Read Around The World* at Rose Park Elementary School on April 26, 2006 from 5:30 – 8:00 P.M. At least 5 volunteers are needed from each council for grades K-6. Scholastic Books has donated 200 books for the event. Volunteer assignments are as follows: Distribution of Scholastic Books, Activity Area, Refreshment Area, and Ushers. There will be a short Orientations Training at 324 S. State Street, Ste 501 on Monday, April 24, 2006. A light meal will be served. Luz informed council members that the OEA will purchase books from their country if needed, so as to help with the event and build the OEA's library. Serafi has asked that each Ethnic group wear attire that represents their culture to show the kids how people dress from around the world. Ron stressed that we contact the media to get the word out to the community and that I contact Betty Sawyer, Chairman of the Utah Black Chamber of Commerce. Michael asked that the council make every attempt to promote this event as it will benefit our community. He also asked that I contact Calvary Baptist Church to have it placed in the Sunday announcements.

- Michael updated the council on the progress of the Utah Black Chamber of Commerce. Paid members currently stand at approximately 15-20. There are approximately 108 black businesses in the state of Utah.
- Michael discussed his plan for the State of the Black Community Event, an event where he would like to gather 1,000 people from the black community to discuss the lack of community involvement in education, economic development, and financial wellness. The goal is to develop a benchmark.
  - Osman proposed that we change the date from February to April to avoid weather constraints.
  - Osman and Ron discussed the option of holding the event at other venues outside of Calvary Baptist Church
  - Ron emphasized the idea of getting the press involved to make the project a success
  - Ron charged William with heading a project to build a Utah Black Directory, names, telephone numbers and email addresses.
  - Committee agreed to change the month from February 2007 to April 2007
- Michael discussed re-defining the role of the Black Advisory Council. Sub committees are not working. Ron charged to council members that they go out into the black community and address their concerns on Economic Development, Law Enforcement, Education, and Health Issues and bring them back to the meetings for further discussion.
- Michael raised the topic of addressing the gap between the African and African American communities. There will be a meeting on April 27, 2006 at 4:00 P.M. here in the OEA with chefs of African Tribes and Council members. Malik suggested that we provide translators for chefs of African Tribes so as to make them feel more comfortable and to feel as though they are a part of the meetings. Ron charged Osman and Koffi will take the lead on compiling the data needed for the meeting.
- Ron tabled the idea of discussing Economic Development and Education for another meeting.
- Health Fair is on May 6, 2006 at Calvary Baptist Church.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

- The next Black Advisory Counsel meeting is scheduled to be held at Calvary Baptist Church on Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at from 4:00 – 6:30 P.M. We will open the meeting for community input and discussion from 5:30 – 6:30 P.M.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

- Black Advisory Counsel meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M. Osman moved. Malik seconded. Motion carried.